

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, new claim 29 is added.

For reasons submitted in the Response of March 20, 2006, claim 1-28 are patentable and claim 29 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18, 19-26 are patentable because nowhere in Howards Koritzinsky and Sitka is there any teaching, suggestion or motivation for a fixed storage expiration date as claimed. In Sitka, images are sequentially moved from a short-term storage device 170 to a mid-term storage device 180 and to a long-term storage device 190. If an image, however, has been requested during predetermined time periods, the image is not moved to a longer term storage device. Assuming *arguendo*, that Sitka discloses storage expiration dates, the expiration dates would be variable, depending on whether the image has been requested. Therefore, the Sitka cannot possibly set a fixed storage expiration date since any intervening requests for the images would reset any expiration date that was set previously.

For at least the above reasons, Sitka cannot possibly teach, suggest or provide motivation for the fixed storage expiration date.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/910,836

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

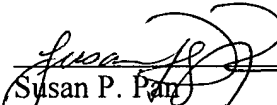
Respectfully submitted,

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